Standards Committee Meeting Minutes  May 17, 2016

Attendance: Teresa Pitzer, Alan Pointer, Sheila Pointer, Paulette Richards, Kim Allen, Jeff Allen, Paula Gourley
            Staff: Kimberly Cullen  Recorder: Diane McWhorter

Guests: Colleen Bauman, Denise Gosar, Sarah O’Grady, Dune, Cedar Sky, Kevin Warren, Ashley Mangancelo, Adam Burgess

Please note: Items may not appear in consecutive order as they were addressed at the meeting, but may have been rearranged for clarity. Points of discussion are statements of individual members and not necessarily the consensus of the whole committee. All approvals are pending the provision of all required licenses, labeling requirements, and payment of fees in a timely manner.

Announcements: Because last month’s meeting was too long, comments will be more controlled. Please speak only when you have something new to add, and only once on each issue if possible. Suggestions: have a shorter agenda; think about what you want to say. Agendas later in the season will probably be shorter.

Agenda Approval:

***Motion: Approve the agenda (Alan/Kim) 6-1-0

Prepackaged Foods: 1. Cedar Sky: Tea of Life: She owns a teahouse and apothecary with a partner and wants to sell the teas, syrups, honeys, herbs and chocolates at SM. Cedar is the 70% owner of the business. They have part time retail employees in the shop but make the products themselves. They wild-craft, grow, and buy the herbs and ingredients. Her labels need to list the ingredients in descending order by weight and may need the allergen warning. She will email her certifications and proof of insurance.

***Motion: Accept her products with the label changes for sale at Saturday Market. (Alan/Paulette) All in favor 7-0-0

Discussion: Both partners are supposed to be members and both sell during the day except for reasonable breaks. SM does not really need to know the details of a partnership arrangement, only that the seller is the maker. If the products are jointly made, the member should bring only those items that have been made by themselves. Confusion may be in the area of the cooperative making of a product and a financial arrangement of ownership, which could be different. Partners get points separately and must be members and sell all day to get the points. More discussion will be held on partnerships at the next meeting when some research is shared.

2. Kevin Warren: BNF, a Billion New Friends Kombucha and Jun: Presently being made in Florence, this product is in transition to be made in Eugene in the next few months. He will soon have a certified location, certifications, and insurance. He uses locally grown and organic ingredients as much as possible. He starts with tea, adds flavorings and sugar or honey, adds the scoby (symbiotic culture of bacteria and yeast) and brews for 5-10 days. He has no employees. He is interested in the Small Food Producers Program. Kimberly will provide guidelines for sampling and hand-washing.

***Motion: Approve Kevin’s Kombucha teas called a Billion New Friends (with labels and insurance) (Paula/Sheila) All in favor 7-0-0

Full-Committee Screenings: Ashley Mangancelo and Adam Burgess: Lost Creek Creations: Glass candle holders with one glass inside another, lined with rocks, shells, and other found objects between. They will be using handmade candles in the inner glass, and all glass is approved for use with candles.
Discussion: These seem like assembled commercial components without enough significant contributions. Other items they brought were approved.

***Motion: Accept the candleholders (Paulette/Alan) 0-7-0. Motion failed; Items not approved.

Notices to Appear: The person with the Notice to Appear has not appeared. The Committee discussed the options that have been offered to accommodate the needs of the vendor but none of the suggestions were accepted by the vendor. A straw poll indicated 6-1 that the committee preferred that the vendor come to a meeting before selling again.

***Motion: Don’t allow them to sell until they come to a full meeting (Alan/Kim) 6-1-0.

Approval of Minutes: Meeting of April 20, 2016. There was a correction: Additional language was added to the last paragraph of that discussion, to say “and come back in two weeks for the orientation.” after the words “shorter time commitment.”

***Motion: Approve the minutes (Alan/Sheila) All in favor 7-0-0

Administrative Report: There were two Notices of Concern, both about hawking by new members. Kimberly spoke to one of them and will follow up with the other.

***Motion: Approve the Admin Report (Alan/Paula) All in favor 7-0-0

New Business: Books: This was not about issues with handmade books; the agenda item was to address a letter from someone who edited an anthology of articles from a newsletter she also edited. Because the original content was not written by her the book was not approved, but she made the case that editing and publishing a book is a separate creative process in itself and ought to be seen as crafting. Three members came to speak about handcrafted books, which aren’t really addressed by the Books and Pamphlets guideline. It was suggested that these two items were related through the definition of handcrafting, which is also on the agenda for discussion. One framing was that there are four elements to a book: The physical construction, the words, the images, and the concept, which may include editing, proofreading, and compilation. Handmade books may be blank but are physically constructed by the maker. One finer point is that sometimes covers are removed from commercially made journals, replaced with covers from other books, and these are presented as handmade, while other makers bind the sometimes even make the papers. As the guideline refers only to commercially published books, perhaps there needs to be another to address handmade books.

Commercially printed books are allowed if the seller is the author or illustrator and responsible for a majority of the content. This is one of the places where technology has impacted the crafting market. Perhaps editing is in the category of a skill and not a craft, though the difference is not articulated in present guidelines. Editing and compiling can certainly be a creative pursuit and a skill, but is not in the same category as the papermaking, binding, decorating, typesetting, hand-lettering, and folding and trimming done by a maker of a handmade book. Separate guidelines will be discussed at a future meeting.

Old Business: Unlicensed Kitchens: The legal change in allowing people to sell candies and baked goods from uninspected kitchens was intended to make it possible to hold bake sales, and sell from farm stands, and other neighbor-to-neighbor transactions, not for organizations like Saturday Market. Someone selling an uninspected product could put the reputation of all food-sellers at risk. For this reason the Committee felt that the stricter guidelines requiring a commercial kitchen should extend to candies and baked goods as well. The organization can
have more stringent guidelines than the state, or county. The pre-packaged food guideline will be updated at a future meeting. There is currently one person selling candies who fell into this category, but she consulted thoroughly with both county and state agencies. Perhaps she could be given a year to acquire a license or be granted an exception for a year.

Recommendation: Add to the current guidelines (changing the language to say “Eugene Saturday Market requires”):

***Motion: All food products must be made in a fully licensed kitchen, or the member must have a commissary agreement with a commercially licensed kitchen (Alan/Sheila) All in favor 7-0-0

Alcohol Sales: Members should read the materials provided at the last meeting. Salem allows alcohol sales and reports no problems. If Saturday Market decided to have an alcohol program, an area could be found to isolate to allow sampling or sales - will be discussed at the next meeting.

Partnerships: next meeting

Handcrafting: “Member contribution must outweigh the commercial components” covers the issue well. Some members have been working in the Craft Committee of OCF to adapt SM guidelines for use by OCF. The definition of handcrafted items includes this language:

Handcrafting of the items brought to the Fair is of central importance. Merely designing an item is not sufficient to qualify as a crafter. The creative contribution of the crafter to a finished product must outweigh the commercial components used in the making of that product.

Every item brought to the OCF for sale must be made primarily by the approved crafter. If a crafted item you have juried is being produced by other persons it is considered a manufactured item. Manufactured or commercially made items are only permitted if they are significantly altered by the crafter or incorporated in a way which makes them secondary in a finished product. If a crafter is using a factory for production of an item(s) it is not eligible for sale at OCF. If an item is deemed manufactured, the burden of proof is on the crafter to show that the product is handmade by the crafter.

Helper: a person who makes minor contributions that assist the crafter in producing the work brought to the Fair. In no case can the entirety of helpers’ contribution outweigh the contribution of the juried crafter.

They also use the words “made with hands and heart.” It may be useful to have a category for skills. The uses of technology such as laser cutters and CAD needs to be addressed. Technology is creeping in more and more and SM can draw the lines that fit our market. The market cannot be all things to all people. It was originally formed as a protected market for hand-crafters, and that mission can be further articulated to meet the needs of the current world of making things. The amount of creative force applied can be addressed. Discussion will be ongoing.

Meeting Evaluation: A discussion of facilitation, being welcoming to new members, and general meeting behaviors was held. Come on time, be respectful, and have a manageable agenda. Encourage new and younger members to increase their contribution so that some of the older members can step back. Remember that new members may be
forming their first impression of how things work. Thank volunteers and each other and back up the chair with “uncommon courtesy.”